

(b) if so, the date on which this report was received by Government ;

(c) whether any action has also been taken by Government on the basis of recommendations of this Committee; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the Geeta Krishnan Committee Report pertaining to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting was received in this Ministry on 25.09.2000.

(c) and (d) Consultation with Media Units of the Ministry have been held at the level of the Secretary and the Minister to elicit their views on the recommendations contained in the report of the Expenditure Reforms Committee (ERC). Committee have also been constituted to review some of the media units of the Ministry. The report of the ERC has also been discussed during the Consultative Committee Meeting of MPs attached to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

Inter-ministerial Group for closure of unviable PSUs

***73. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:** Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an inter-ministerial Group has been entrusted the work of considering the closure of unviable public sector undertakings in phased manner in order to check losses to public exchequer; and;

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) as per the information available no such group has been formed.

(b) does not arise.

Separate doordarshan channel for agriculture

***74. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has requested the Central Government to start a separate doordarshan channel exclusively dedicated to agriculture; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir. Prasar Bharati has intimated that Doordarshan has not received any such proposal from the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Return received from top 50 public enterprises

*75. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage return received from the top 50 public enterprises in the country during the last two years;

(b) whether freeing PSUs from Ministerial control will give better results; and

(c) if so, the action proposed in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The percentage return in terms of Profit Before Interest and Tax (PBIT) to Capital Employed (CE) and Net Profit (NP) to Net Worth (NW) of top 50 Central Public Sector Enterprises (Taken based on net profit earned during 1998-99) during 1998-99 and 1997-98 was as follows:

During	Percentage of	
	PBIT to CE	NP to NW
1998-99	20.87	14.73
1997-98	19.84	14.71

(b) and (c) As long as Government holds majority shares, Parliamentary and Ministerial control would remain in some measure. However, Government have taken steps to give greater autonomy to CPSUs in taking commercial decisions in the following manner:—

- (i) reduction of DPE's circulars/office memoranda;
- (ii) granting enhanced financial autonomy to CPSUs under the categories of Navratna/Mini-Ratna for investment decisions.